Winter 2026

Substance Use and Suicide Prevention Newsletter

Save the Date

Alcohol Awareness Month
April 2026
Alcohol Awareness Month webpage

DEA National Prescription Drug Take Back Day
April 25, 2026
DEA National Prescription Drug Take Back Day webpage

Mental Health Awareness Month
May 2026
Mental Health Awareness Month webpage

National Prevention Week
May 10-16, 2026
National Prevention Week webpage

Missouri Suicide Prevention Conference
July 9, 2026
Wyndham Executive Center, Columbia
Missouri Suicide Prevention Conference webpage

Missouri Substance Use Prevention Conference
October 28-29, 2026
Wyndham Executive Center, Columbia

DEA National Take Back Day

The United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) National Prescription Drug Take Back Day is a biannual event that takes place in October and April. The purpose of the DEA National Prescription Drug Take Back Day is to urge people to safely dispose of unused and expired medication. In October 2025, 571,054 pounds of prescription medication was collected across the nation during the one-day event. In Missouri, 114 sites collected 18,119 pounds of unused and expired prescription drugs.

The next DEA National Prescription Drug Take Back Day will be held April 25, 2026. Learn more about DEA National Prescription Drug Take Back Day.

Safely dispose of prescription medication all year long at a permanent drop box near you.

Violent Death Reporting System

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services recently launched a reporting system to collect information about violent deaths in Missouri. Suicide, homicide, and other violent deaths are included. System users can search by type of death, county, demographics, toxicology results, and specific circumstances.

View the Missouri Violent Death Reporting System's suicide dashboard.

Missouri Department of MENTAL HEALTH

988 Calls Keep Rising – Check Out the Number of Calls Below

Fiscal Year 2024
July 2023-June 2024
Calls, texts, and chats answered: 82,202
Average in-state call answer rate: 93%

Fiscal Year 2025
July 2024-June 2025
Calls, texts, and chats answered: 112,418
Average in-state call answer rate: 90%

Statewide Substance Use Prevention Conference

The annual Missouri Substance Use Prevention Conference took place in October 2025 with 370 attendees. This two-day event provided prevention professionals and others the opportunity to learn prevention strategies, initiatives being conducted throughout the state, and current trends in substance use prevention. Look for information about the 2026 conference coming soon.

Incorporating Suicide Prevention in Your Life

The Suicide Prevention Resource Center released a fact sheet highlighting how essential needs may affect suicide risk and offers examples of ways to integrate suicide prevention efforts where people live, work, and play. This resource was designed for prevention professionals, community leaders, and organizational leaders.

Learn more about **Incorporating Suicide Prevention Where We Live, Work, and Play**.

Substance Use Prevention Resources

ENGAGE: Evidence-Based Strategies to Prevent Youth Substance Use provides resources and a downloadable guide containing six strategies and approaches to prevent youth substance use.

Evidence-Based Practices Resource Center is the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) webpage that contains tools and information that can be utilized by prevention providers to assist with implementing evidence-based practices in the community.

Missouri Department of Mental Health's prevention webpage contains prevention resources and reports, a list of Missouri Department of Mental Health registered coalitions, and a Prevention Resource Center map.

Substance Use Prevention Evidence-Based Resource (SUPER) is a website prevention professionals can utilize as a resource to identify and learn about evidence-based, resource-based, and innovative substance use prevention programs. System users can search by prevention category, prevention strategies, prevention components, population age, and population of focus.

Missouri Department of
MENTAL HEALTH

"Talk. They Hear You." is a national youth substance use prevention campaign designed to help parents and caregivers be prepared to take action to prevent underage substance use.

Free Mind is a national campaign that provides youth ages 12-17 and their parents or caregivers with facts and resources about substance use and mental health.

Join Community Conversations about Suicide Prevention

The Missouri Suicide Prevention Network hosts quarterly Community Conversations about Suicide Prevention, an online discussion for anyone interested in the topic of suicide prevention. These gatherings allow a space for Missourians to connect, share resources, learn about statewide suicide prevention efforts, and collaborate to help prevent suicide.

Learn more about Community Conversations about Suicide Prevention.

Free Trainings

Prevention Smart is a professional development tool for prevention professionals.

HealthEKnowledge offers free and low-cost continuing education for prevention professionals and others in the behavioral health field.

The Mid-America Prevention Technology Transfer Center (PTTC) provides free prevention education, resources, and assistance to prevention professionals in Missouri.

View the training calendar.

Request technical assistance.

Order Free 988 Promotional Items for your Next Community Event

Are you a prevention professional who is looking for free materials to promote the 988 Suicide Prevention & Crisis Lifeline? If so, register for an account on the Missouri 988 Storefront. The storefront has a variety of 988 materials that can be ordered at no cost for Missouri residents. Examples of materials include bracelets, stress balls, pens, and flyers.

988
SUICIDE & CRISIS
LIFELINE
MISSOURI

Missouri Department of
MENTAL HEALTH